

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

P.O. Box 942883  
Sacramento, CA 94283-0001



November 2, 2009

Mr. David R. Shaw  
Inspector General  
Office of the Inspector General  
P.O. Box 348780  
Sacramento, CA 95834-8780

Dear Mr. Shaw:

Thank you for your report on the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's supervision of parolee Phillip Garrido. While we appreciate the efforts of law enforcement and parole in apprehending Garrido, we regret he was not caught sooner. As you note, the Department recognized many of the issues raised in your report as part of the internal review that we provided to your office. And we agree that although the Department improved its supervision of Garrido in recent years, even further improvements in our system of parole supervision are needed.

That is why in March of this year, the Department announced that it would be seeking reforms of its parole system. The Department sought to recreate parole, transforming it into a risk-based system of supervision that targets its resources on dangerous offenders. The Department also explained that parole agent caseloads needed to be reduced so that high-risk parolees could be properly supervised. Dangerous offenders demand more time and attention from our parole staff.

We are grateful the Governor and Legislature recently passed into law a parole reform package that will enable the Department to create the type of risk-based supervision that is needed. When the law becomes effective on January 25, 2010, the Department will be ready to implement a system of parole supervision that uses risk to ensure that the most dangerous offenders receive the closest supervision. As part of this system, the Department will ensure, as the Inspector General has recommended, that all parolees will be assessed for risk and that clear, risk-appropriate supervision standards will guide our parole agents. Perhaps most significantly, with this legislative change, the Department will be able to reduce parole agent caseloads and the supervisory span of control and thereby be able to resolve the challenges created by a strain on parole supervision with too many offenders and too few agents, supervisors and managers. Thus, closer supervision can be paid to high-risk parolees. The Department appreciates that resources will soon be available for these very important purposes.

At the same time, the Department will continue to improve GPS policies and training as we become increasingly familiar with the possibilities of this evolving technology and as the technology itself improves. Over the last several years, the Department has been aggressive in

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placing all sex offenders on GPS even though GPS as a community corrections model is still in its infancy. In the future, we will ensure that parole agents periodically review all GPS tracks. We believe that GPS continues to be a valuable tool in the parole supervision model, demonstrated by its utilization on numerous occasions to detect and prevent criminal activity, and we will continue to strive to exceed local and national GPS standards.

Again, it is regrettable that the victims in this case were not discovered sooner. We are committed to doing everything we can to improve our system so that high-risk parolees are more closely supervised. We look forward to implementing our vision of parole reform so that those improvements are realized.

I would like to thank the Inspector General for this report. If there is anything further, I can be reached at (916) 323-6001.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew L. Cate". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MATTHEW L. CATE  
Secretary